RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

NOVEMBER 1987 *232 Ogden Avenue – Jersey City, N.J. 07307 – (201) 798-0493*

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

MEETING MINUTES

The turnout for the October meeting proved the old adage that it pays to advertise. We advertised a full agenda and the attendance response was great. Both candidates for County Executive were scheduled to speak and Dr. Doris Molina was also to be a guest speaker.

Dr. Molina was gracious and kind enough to re-schedule her lecture for the November meeting, thus leaving the floor open to the political candidates.

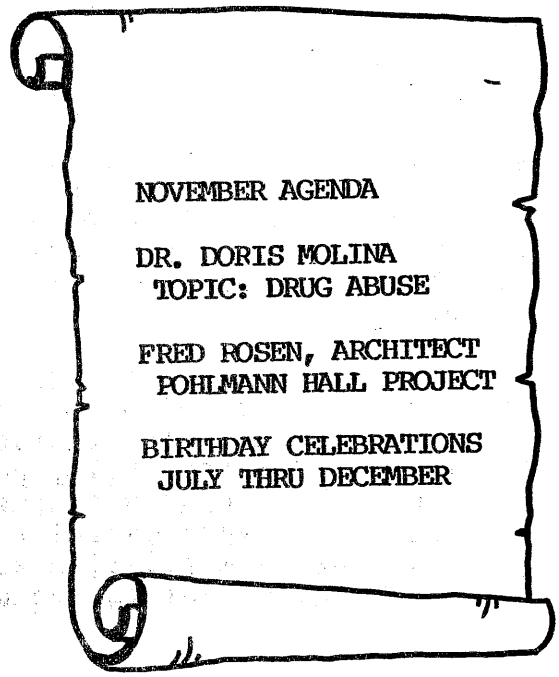
The first part of the meeting was taken up with committee reports and regular business. The annual fall party for the Harborview residents was planned for November 6th and the members decided to collect food for the needy again this year. Volunteers for both projects were called for. Progress reports were given on the civilian patrol of the park, the new city committee for improvement of city services, the park recreation projects and the results of the recent meetings of the City Council and the Planning Board.

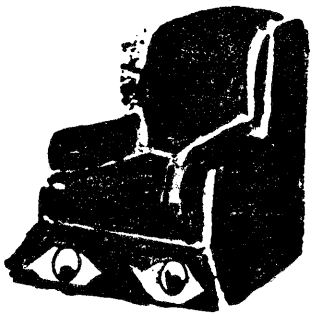
This business concluded, we made ready for the appearance of the two political office seekers. Unfortunately Tom Hart, the Republican candidate, was taken ill and had to cancel his appearance. This left the floor solely to Bob Janiszewski, the Democratic candidate. Mr. Janiszewski gave a brief summary of his personal and his political background and then answered questions from the audience.

At the end of the question and answer session the meeting was brought to a close and we then spent some social time together. The refreshments for this part of the evening were provided by Gert Bogdan, Valerie Rea, and Mrs Marie Tuzzo.

You are invited to partake of the delicious refreshments and to add your opinion, to those of your neighbors, on the many matters that concern our neighborhood. Please join us at the next meeting Tuesday, November 10th 7:30pm at the Harborview Health Care Center. We look forward to seeing you and to hearing your opinion.

Secretary
Maria E. Tuzzo





Under the Chair

FIRES: Since our last newsletter, there have been four more residential fires - one at 77 Webster Avenue in the Heights and three in Hoboken. All have been termed suspicious and investigations are proceeding to determine if arson was the cause of these fires. The three fires in Hoboken - at 318 Hudson St. on Oct. 21st, at 132 Jefferson St. on Oct. 13th and at 121 Willow Ave. on Oct. 9th - killed five people. This is an intolerable situation. How can people live in a community where any night a fire can engulf their home - a fire that was deliberately started by some twisted, sick mind for supposed reasons ranging from greed to revenge. If anyone has any information regarding the Webster Avenue fire or any of the others, it is their duty to report that information to the police. It can not be overemphasized enough - that our very lives are at sake.

Footnote: On Oct. 20th, RNA received a verbal report from Police Director Walter Adams regarding the investigation concerning the fire at 253 Ogden Ave. According to his information, the very first call to the police telephone number 911 reporting the fire was at 4:06:56, with subsequent calls at 4:07, 4:09 and 4:10. The complete report will be available at our November 10th meeting.

PARK UPDATE: On Oct. 6th, our Park Commission met with Police Director Adams and union representatives Capt. Walter Milne and P.O. Adler. The subjects discussed were a permanent park patrol and the use of the park pavilion as a shelter for the patrol personnel.

On Oct. 16th, our Park Commission met with the Dept. of Public works: Director Ron Buonocore, Joan Earls of Leisure Activities, and Frank Kean of Facility Maintenance. The subjects discussed were the implementation of an inspection tour of our Park every two months with a member of the DPW and a community representative and the idea of a permanent park patrol. This idea of a permanent police presence in our Park was one of our basic demands that will alleviate many of the Park problems. The present discussions center on whether this patrol should come from the regular police force, a special park police, a DPW security team or a private security firm.

At the Oct. 8th City Council meeting, a resolution was passed that established an ad hoc legislative committee to study the conditions of all the municipal parks owned and operated by Jersey City. This new committee shall consist of the original Park Commission members plus two citizen representatives appointed by each ward councilmember. (This new Municipal Park Committee will replace the original Riverview Park Commission.)

MOUNTAIN AND RAVINE ROADS: Within the last two months there have been two pictorial spreads in the Jersey Journal focusing our attention once again on the persistent problems of Mountain Road and Ravine Road(Sept. 16 and Oct. 22). The newspaper described these two streets as unofficial junkyards, or graveyards for torched and abandoned cars and illegal garbage and construction dumping. Mt. Road has been legally reopened but it is neglected by the City, who refuses to adequately maintain or police it. The road surface has now worsened because of the continuous theft of the Belgian blocks reducing one part of the street to one-half the width. The situation on Ravine Road has also worsened because since July 1st, three people have been found murdered on the road.

Once again we as a community are outraged at this apparent abandonment of our neighborhood by the City. Again the inevitable question - is it that our officials can not do their job, or is it that they will not do their job? Either way, we as taxpayers are the victims - living in a City that cannot take care of itself. Where law and order is something to be laughed at and anarchy is the law of the street.

(On Oct. 2nd, the DPW and the Police made two arrests for ill legal dumping on Ravine Road.)

RESERVOIR UPDATE: On Sept. 25th, a group of Heights residents (Janet and Vincent Moore, Arthur Fabian, and Vito Brunetti) met with Gerald Sims of HED, in the office of Council Pres. Glenn Cuningham to discuss the future of the 25 acres in the Heights where Reservoirs #2 and #3 are located. The plans for Reservoir #2, situated between Troy, Collard, Laidlaw and Summit Streets, are to upgrade it to State Clean Water standards (#2 provides water for the downtown section of Jersey City). This project will cost approx. $6 million. At this point, HED is planning to sell Reservoir #3, situated between Summit, Jefferson, Central Avenues and Pershing Field, to finance this project. The community group expressed its concern that the land could be sold to a developer who would try to build high rises on it. This group has been asking to participate in drawing up a city plan for the site to restrict what can be built by potential buyers. Ideas have been discussed ranging from an open space park to a townhouse project or a mixed use development. On Oct. 5th, Council Pres. Cunningham introduced a resolution directing the Director of HED and the Real Estate Director and urging the Director of the Redevelopment Agency to keep the City Council and certain Community Organizations aware of any sale or development of the City Reservoir property that boarders Summit Avenue (especially #3)." The purpose of this was to avoid a project from being developed without community input. The resolution was passed. On Oct. 14th, the community group met with Councilmembers George Aviles and Cunningham. The results of this meeting were to ask the Division of Urban Research and Design to begin a feasibility study for the future use of Reservoir #3. Another meeting is planned to enlarge this community group with surrounding neighborhood and block associations and begin discussing what would be appropriate for this site.

RACISM: A lot has been written recently about the racist and violent attacks against members of our Indian community. One can only question the quick denials that "it is not our children that are respon sible for these incidents". It does not take a lifelong resident to sense the racial undercurrent that pulses through this community and City, for that matter. One need only walk through the streets, parks and neighborhoods to feel the tension.

Another thought - a person is not born a racist - he or she learns to hate, to mistrust, to look down on other people from their parents and friends. It is unfortunately, an acquired trait.

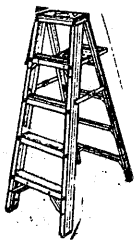
Whether this crisis was a political or media distortion is not the issue, the sad truth is we are all responsible for creating, but more importantly for correcting this serious problem.

Two former members of RNA, Ellen Boggs and Ed Lortz, have written and send their regards to everyone. If you wish to read their letters, see me at the November meeting. I am sure they would love to hear from you — their addresses are as follows:

Ellen Boggs
4417 Windom Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Ed Lortz
1242 19th Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-2924

Carin Lewis



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

On Oct. 1st, members of the Planning and Development Committee testified before the Board of Adjustment against a condo project application from Antonio De Pinto for the property at 333 New York Avenue. The plan is to demolish a three story Victorian house and six parking garages located on the three lots and build a 12-unit condo building with an underground parking facility . The project needed numerous variances, including density and lot coverage. RNAs' main contention was that there was no reason, including hardship, for the granting of these variances. We were against the breaking of the R-2 zoning for no apparent reason other than profit and greed. We were concerned that it would disrupt the neighborhood and set a dangerous precedent for the rest of this R-2 community. RNA offered suggestions to renovate the existing structure or at the very least try to arrive at a compromise to satisfy both the neighborhood and the developer. Unfortunately the Board voted to approve the project. One of the commissioners said something to the effect that "I think there is a hardship included in this application. The owner has remained in the community for twenty years. I consider that a hardship and therefore think he should be rewarded." Another commissioner made a statement that "if we (RNA) thought the Victorian house should be saved, why didn't we purchase the property ourselves." To worsen the situation, Councilman Tom Hart had the nerve to testify for the project, stating that it would improve the neighborhood and would fit in with the other buildings. There was also a lack of residents from New York Ave. to protest the project.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Our P/D group met with the architect/developer, Frank Rosen, on Oct. 27th to discuss the third version of the Pohlmann Hall II project. We expect the developers and architect to make a presentation to the whole association at our next general meeting on November 10th. Come and see what they are planning this time!

Randy Sanford

LET'S GET COOKING

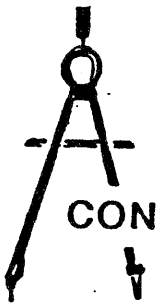
Do you have a favorite receipe that you would like to give us? Share one with us and you will give you name to neighborhood history. We would like to compile a book of receipes for our very own RNA cookbook.

All you have to do is give us a copy of the recipe. We will type them up and incorporate them into a book format. You will get full credit for your receipe. We would like to do this over the winter months and then have the book ready for sale at the Flea Market. Categories will include appetizers, breads, pies, cakes, desserts, meat and poultry, seafood dishes and vegetables.

On the off chance that you are not into cooking, perhaps you can give us some household hints. We could also have a section on these

Please don't wait until the last minute because we do have to set all of this up. You can bring them to the meeting or drop them in the slot on my door at 189 Ogden.

KATHY BRENNAN



CONRAD'S CORNER

When Thomas Jefferson was ambassador to France, he was impressed by all the classical buildings, especially Maison Carree in Nimes, the best preserved Roman Temple still standing. It inspired him to build Monticello.

Foreign diplomats looked upon the United States as just a land of log cabins. Jefferson was determined to overcome this image, all of which led to the development of the classical style for the Capital buildings of Washington.

It was Vanderbilt who built Biltmore in North Carolina in 1893 as a French chateau with one thousand men working five years and the Breakers in Newport with its five story entrance hall which dumfounded foreign diplomats when they saw them. Even the Woolworth building topped Ulm cathedral, the world's tallest building at the time, by one hundred feet.

When the Courthouse was completed in 1910, our architects boasted that American workers had surpassed the craftsmen of Europe in their quality of work. Penn Station, a replica of the Baths of Diocletian, was built of granite to last forever.

We were having duplicates of classical buildings all over America. Dickinson High school was modeled after the Czar's palace in St. Petersburg. Much overlooked was the Loew's Theater as just another movie house-giving it a second look, however, reveals myriads of boroque details, intricately designed to form a magnificient interior, much like the old Metropolitan Opera with excellent acoustics. Its huge auditorium is a ready made performing arts center, much better than most of Lincoln Center.

Our modern craftsmen couldn't duplicate it if they tried. It's a beautiful monument. Talbot Hamlin, the great architectural historian, said "The world will never see the likes of these buildings again", and yet our developers and politicians want to tear them down to get more ratables. Maison Carree hasn't paid taxes in two thousand years and is still left standing. If we need more tax money, why then do we give out tax abatements? Does it mean that all our churches will soon be torn down because they don't pay taxes? We need more than office buildings and condominiums for a better quality of life. We're being short changed by the State. Why can't we have a cultural center like Symphony Hall in Newark in the Loew's? We are after all the second largest city in the State.

DOG DAYS

On Friday, Vito and I were casually eating peanuts in the Park when a neighbor called to us from across Ogden near the pavilion. We went to discover an abandoned dog, leashed to the flagpole. "Been there all day!"

He was frightened, and anxious, and in his eyes was the dulled look of fatique. He whimpered,and barked, and cowered in silence; his mouth was dirty and his whiskers sagged with muddy slobber; the scent was strong as with any scared animal, and the circled ground at leash-length scratched and marked.

In the end he surrendered to our approach with a gentle cowering and covering of head with his paws, and he trembled as we un-wound the leash from the pole. Someone had left him with a short supply of dog-biscuts and water, a chain collar with leash, plus a flea-collar no longer potent; somehow I inherited it all along with the dog.

Vito stayed with him in the park while I rushed to the A&P for flea shampoo; I came back with food, dogdishes, flea powder, flea shampoo, and a dog brush. I was ready!

After a 45 minute shampoo from head to toe-nail, and a wild and wooly toweling

Con't. next page

off (in a soaked studio), a through brushing and dusting, I trimed his whiskers and we went for our first walk together in Riverview Park..where, upon sighting a female beauty he proceeded to respond to Nature's call, and I had my first lesson at canine birth control. Later, I fumbled through a beginner's technique as pooper-scooper.

Some say he's a pedigree English Sheepdog; I don't know. He comes to me now without cowering, and by this time I've decided to re-name him, "Scribbles"! Scribbles..because with his frizzie black and white hair, that's what he looks like--a scribble--lots of them! So..it's Scribbles!

I'm not sure if I'll keep him..there are practical and philosophical problems weighing on my mind. As an easy-way-out, I could say the Landlord wouldn't approve..but, I'm the Landlord! One thing for sure, I'll take good care of him until someone better-suited comes along!

Throughout all of this, I've been reminded of something I wrote several years ago, and I'd like to offer it here in this context; perhaps it will further reveal both the tradgedy and the beauty in Scribbles' story--his adventures and fate in leading a dog's life; the piece is called, "In Wildness".

Dean Howell

IN WILDNESS

We know wild animals; they're distinguished from those that are tame, those that are pets, those that are con troled in some way or another! What is this wildness? What is it's look and feel? How can we tell a pet from a stray? How do we know a stray dog isn't really a wild one? What is a Mutt?

Often we say a mutt is a good-for-nothing dog that's lost it's pureness, it's pedigree. A mutt is a mongrel. A mutt has lost its dogness, and in the process acquired a "dog-gone" weakned spirit! A stray dog is not a wild one because the curve and aimlessness of its lope, the sway of its neck, the tone of its muscle shows instantly the "Dog" is gone the wild is missing! Gone is the frienzied quiver, the flexing of muscle, the fleeing of senseless excitement. Gone is the freedom and spirit of Dogness. Present is the spirit of a stray in the shape of a dog; present is the absence of wildness; absent is the freedom that characterizes all living things by nature.

In wildness is a background of livliness against which all figures and forms of control are experienced. A stray dog is a stray cat is a stray cow; a lope is a lope, and wildness is form without the burden of control.

A stray dog lopes and sways its way to nowhere--trying to find the Dog in itself--or at least, the person who took it away; a wild dog races to the same nowhere place simply because it's a dog--a wild one, and free.

As Thoreau said so beautifully, a while ago, "...in wildness is the preservation of the world".

Dean Howell

Unfortunately I am unable to keep "Scribbles" due to my schedule. Anyone interested in adopting this dog--please contact me at 963-1001.

Dean Howell

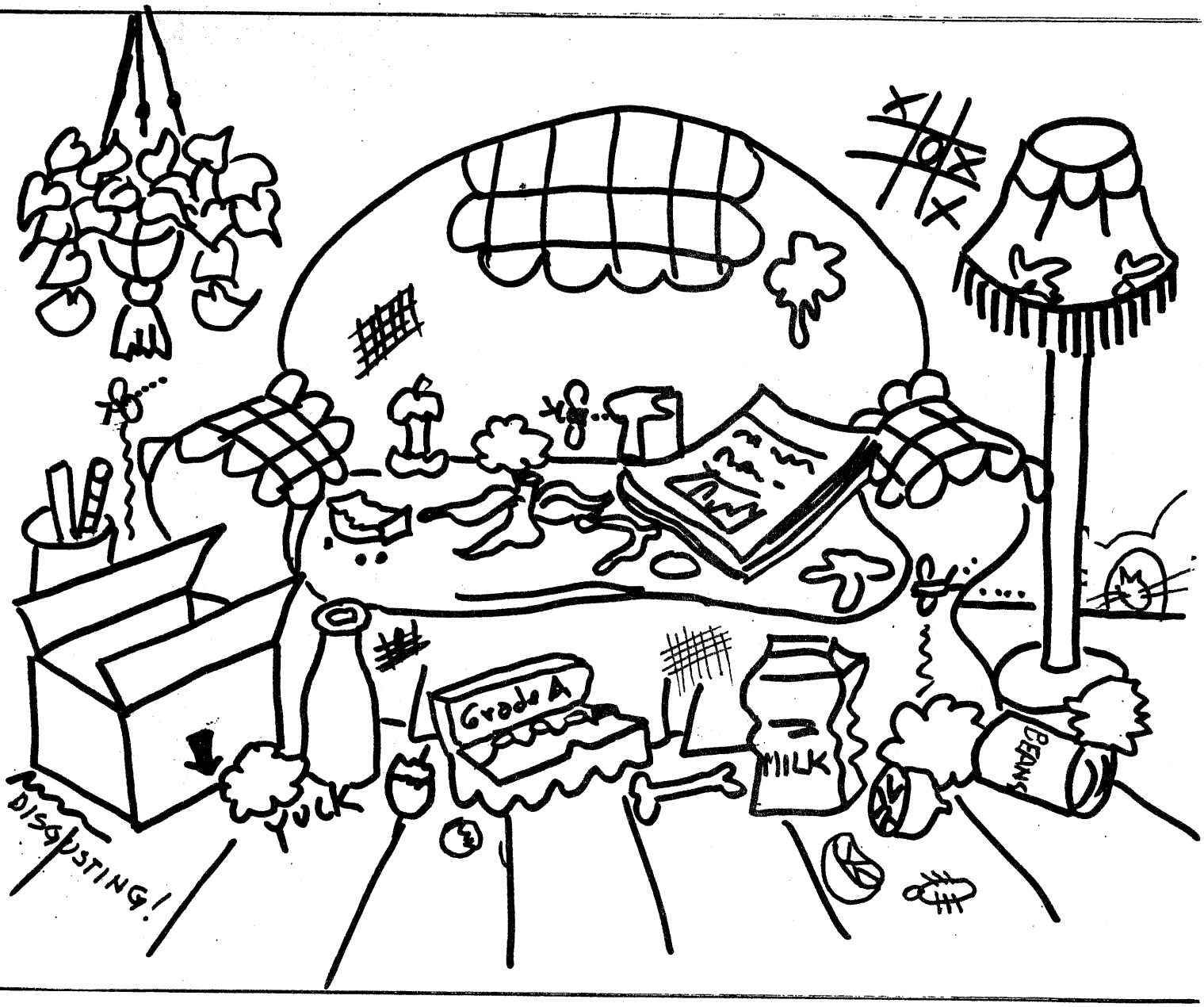
The RNA extends their sympathy to the families of Michael M. Tuzzo and Evelyn Berndt on their recent loss.

1986 TAX REFORM ACT

The Internal Revenue Service is offering (free) a special taxpayers' guide to changes in the new tax law; IRS Publication 920 (Explanation of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 for Individuals) and Publication 921 (for business). To obtain copies, call (toll-free) 1-800-424-FORM or write to: Forms Distribution Center, P. O. Box 25866, Richmond, VA 23260.

Tax Reminder: The 1986 Tax Reform Act states that any individual, 5 years of age or older, must have a Social Security number or they cannot be claimed as a dependent when filing your 1987 tax return. Remind your friends and relatives also.

CONSIDER THE CITY YOUR LIVING ROOM



KEEP IT CLEAN! DON'T LITTER!

Children should be instructed never to approach a stranger in a car, even if offers are made of money, candy, gifts or a ride. They also should be taught not to accompany strangers who invite them for a walk or want to play with them. Children should know that such incidents should be reported to parents, teachers or police officers, and should be encouraged to remember what the stranger looked like and what was said.

Hitchhiking is something your child should never do! It is equally as dangerous for boys as it is for girls. Children should be taken to and from a destination by a parent or other responsible adult. Children should walk alone only if they have learned the rules of safe walking, including obeying signs and signals, crossing only at corners, and walking on sidewalks whenever available.

Instruct your children to tell you where they are going, who they are going with, and when they will return. They should know they must inform a parent or guardian of any change in plans.

Lock doors and windows in your home and never indicate to strangers when a child may be home alone. Children should never open a door to a stranger. When alone, children should inform telephone callers that a parent cannot come to the phone at that time, but that a message can be left and will be relayed.

Discuss with your child what indecent exposure is and what to do should anyone commit it in their presence. It should be emphasized to children that only doctors, nurses or a parent or guardian are permitted to touch them in a personal manner. Should anyone else try to touch them in such a way they should get away as fast as possible. They should be encouraged to tell you what happened. Always take time to listen to your child. In most sexual assault or abuse cases, the offender is known to the child or the child's family. Do not dismiss what your child tells you as an exaggeration or as the product of an active imagination. Check out all information, and take action when necessary!

Shortcuts through deserted or secluded areas can be dangerous to your child and should be avoided. Children should stay in a group and play in open areas where parents or other responsible adults can observe them easily.

Always discuss with your children any incident which disturbs or confuses them. Encourage them to confide in you, and never make them feel embarrassed or ashamed when they do so.

Familiarize yourself and your children with your neighborhood. Show them places where they can go if they need immediate help, such as a neighbor's home, a friend's house, or a Block Mother's residence.

Exercise care in selecting a reliable babysitter. Inform the sitter how you can be reached in case of an emergency. Be concerned about the safety of teenage babysitters and ensure they have adequate transportation, especially late at night.

Teach each child his or her full name, address and telephone number. Instruct the youngster in the proper use of the telephone and how to call 911 in any emergency situation. A child also should know the name, address and telephone number of a family friend or relative who can be contacted in event of an emergency.

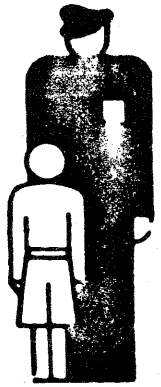
Young children should be accompanied into public restrooms. They should not be permitted to loiter near restroom areas nor speak to strangers.

Timely reporting of missing or runaway children is important. If your child is missing, try to remain as calm as possibly and help police officers by suggesting friends homes, play areas or other locations where your child might be.

Items of clothing should not be monogrammed with a child's name. This could encourage undesirable familiarity by a stranger.

Photographs, dental records and fingerprints are valuable identification aids. Be prepared to make these items readily available to a police investigator, should your child be missing or run away.

Safety tips like these can be used to increase your child's awareness. Involve yourself, maintain open lines of communication, and be sure your child understands what to do to help ensure his or her own safety.



Yesterday
is already a dream
and
Tomorrow
is only a vision,
but
Today, well lived
makes every
Yesterday
a dream of happiness
and every
Tomorrow
a vision of
hope

Guess Who We Grew Up To Be?

TSIRINCHA ADDIV ESNWYE
Unscramble these letters for answer.

HEIGHTS SOCIETY

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK OF NEWPORT LUXURY CONDOS, GIUSEPPE? ISN'T IT GREAT?!
YOU ARE RIGHT, JOSE, IT'S GREAT, BUT ONLY FOR "DINKS". FORGET ABOUT US; WE ARE ONLY "LINKS".
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "DINKS" AND "LINKS"?
WELL, YOU SEE, ALL THE DEVELOPERS ARE LOOKING FOR IS "DINKS": DOUBLE INCOME, NO KIDS...
MMMMM
VIVA PUERTO RICO
WE ARE "LINKS": LOW INCOME, NUMEROUS KIDS!!
Rayuela 87

REMINDER: RNA THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE : PLEASE BRING CANNED GOODS AND NON-PERISHABLE FOODS TO OUR NEXT MEETING, NOV. 10th OR CALL 659-2245 FOR DROP-OFF LOCATION

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232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307

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RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

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Chairman

Bob Lewis
Vice-Chairman

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Randy Sanford
Treasurer

Jack Rea
Sgt. at Arms

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

COMMITTEES:

COMMUNITY AWARENESS:
Carin Lewis

CRIME:
George Graul

ENVIRONMENT:
Anne Hart

TRAFFIC:
Michael Cioffi

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:
Randy Sanford